

Sexual Violence in Alaska

André B. Rosay
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UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA ANCHORAGE

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Sexual Violence in Alaska: Descriptive Overview

- **Data Overview:**
 - Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)
 - Alaska State Troopers (AST)
 - Anchorage Police Department (APD)
 - Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE)
 - Alaska Department of Law (DOL)



Grant Funding



- **Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault:**

- 2003-WF-BX-0201, 2004-WF-AX-0033



- **U.S. Department of Justice:**

- 2000-RH-CX-K039, 2004-WG-BX-0003, 2005-WG-BX-0011, 2007-WG-R-007



- **University of Alaska Anchorage:**

- UAA Faculty Development Grant

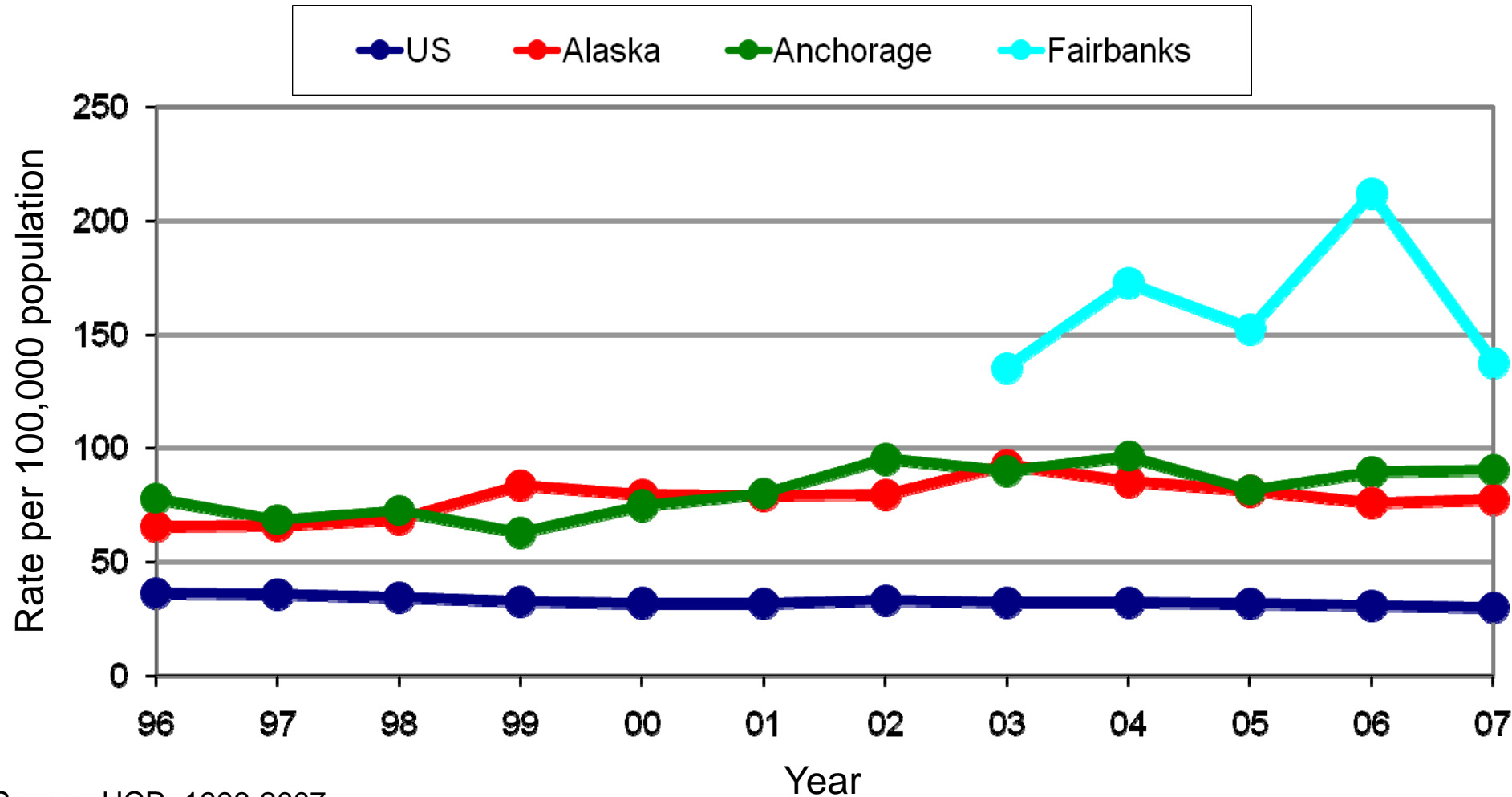
Points of view in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, the U.S. Department of Justice, or the University of Alaska Anchorage.



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Forcible Rape Statistics from UCR



Source: UCR, 1996-2007



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Forcible Rape Statistics from UCR

	2003-2007 Average	Factor Difference
U.S.	31.5	
Alaska	82.4	x 2.62
Anchorage	89.4	x 2.84
Fairbanks	162.0	x 5.14

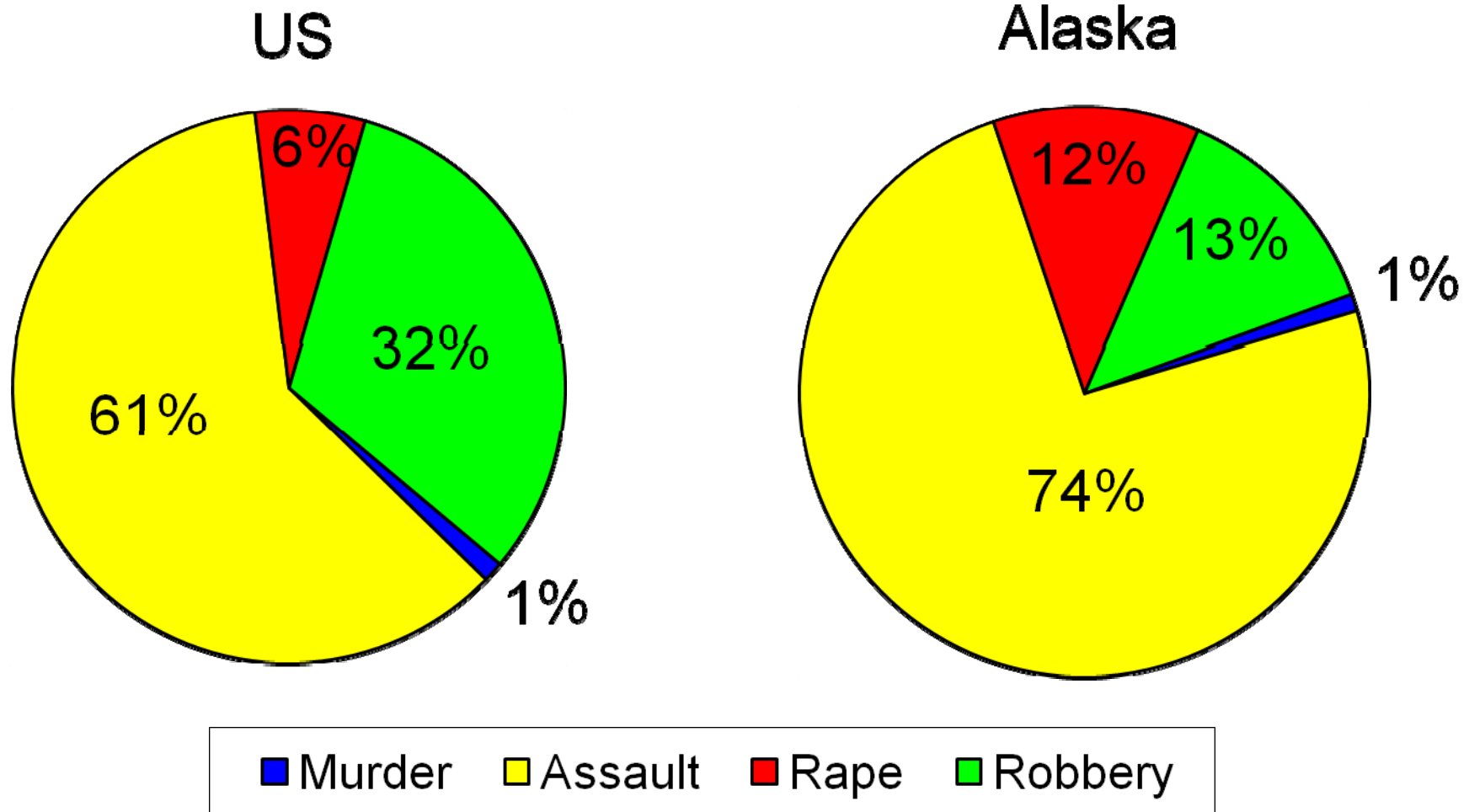
Source: UCR, 2003-2007



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Composition of Violent Crime Rate



Source: UCR, 2007



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Rate Rankings

Highest Rate per 100,000 Women

Year	State	Rate
2002	AK	164.6
2003	AK	190.6
2004	AK	175.4
2005	AK	167.6
2006	AK	157.3
2007	AK	161.0
Average		169.4

Source: UCR & US Census, 2002-2007



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Rate Rankings

**Highest Rate per
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**To Be Below Highest Rate,
Decrease # of Forcible Rapes**

Year	State	Rate	From → To	By
2002	AK	164.6	511 → 327	184 (36%)
2003	AK	190.6	600 → 334	266 (44%)
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2007	AK	161.0	529 → 335	194 (32%)
Average		169.4	541 → 340	201 (36%)

Source: UCR & US Census, 2002-2007



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Standard UCR Cautions

- **UCR Statistics exclude:**
 - Rapes not reported to law enforcement,
 - Statutory rapes,
 - Incapacitated rapes,
 - Rapes with male victims,
 - Other sex offenses,
 - Rapes with more serious offenses (homicide).
- **Rankings are invalid assessments (ignore variables that affect crime).**



State / Local Data

- Alaska SANE Study
- Alaska State Trooper Studies
- Anchorage Police Department Studies
- Alaska Department of Law Studies

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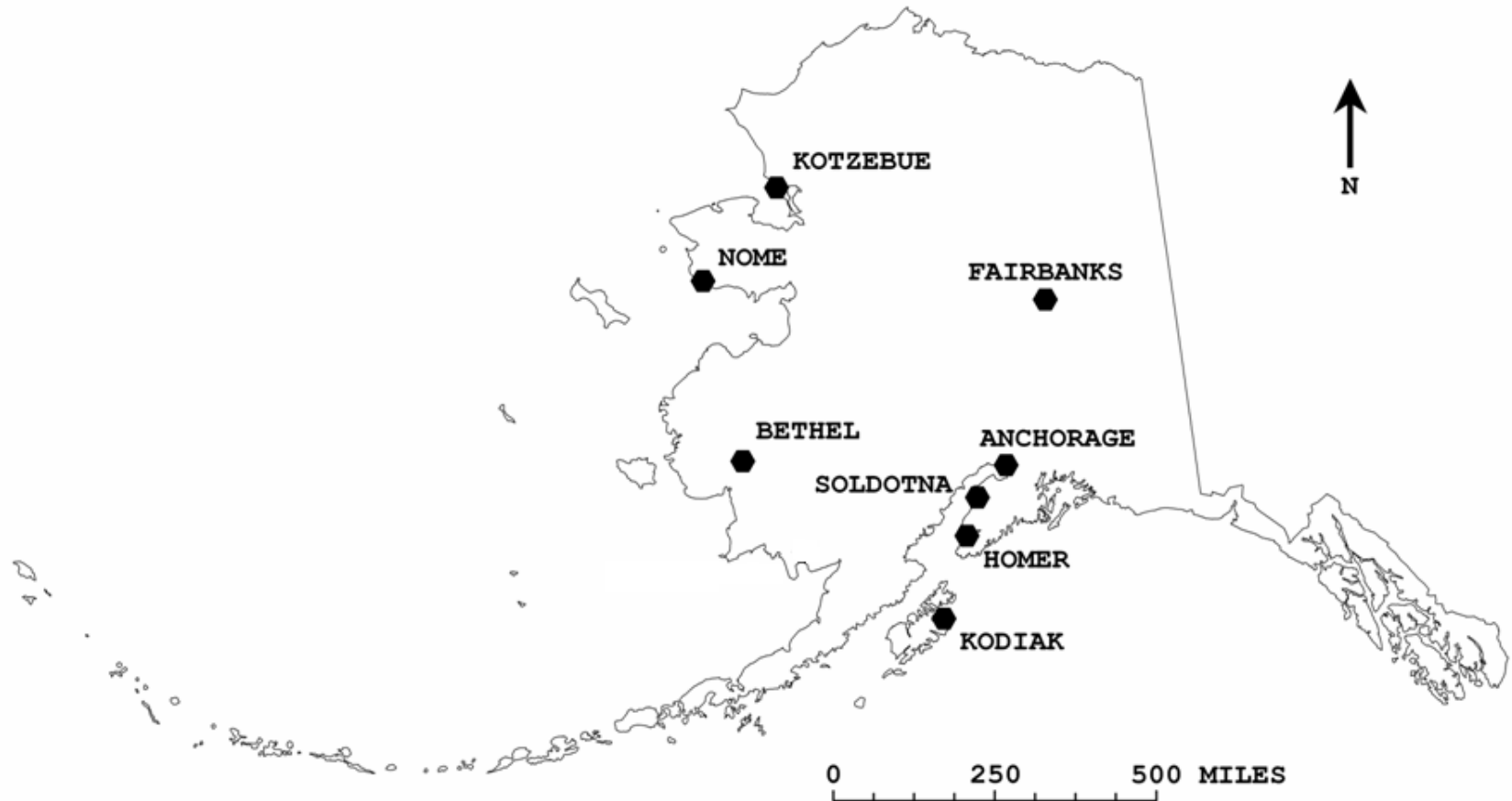
Studies only include offenses reported to law enforcement.
(BJS 2003: 52% of sexual assaults are not reported to police)



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Alaska SANE Study



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Alaska State Trooper Studies



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- Stalking Study
 - 210 reports (1994-2005)
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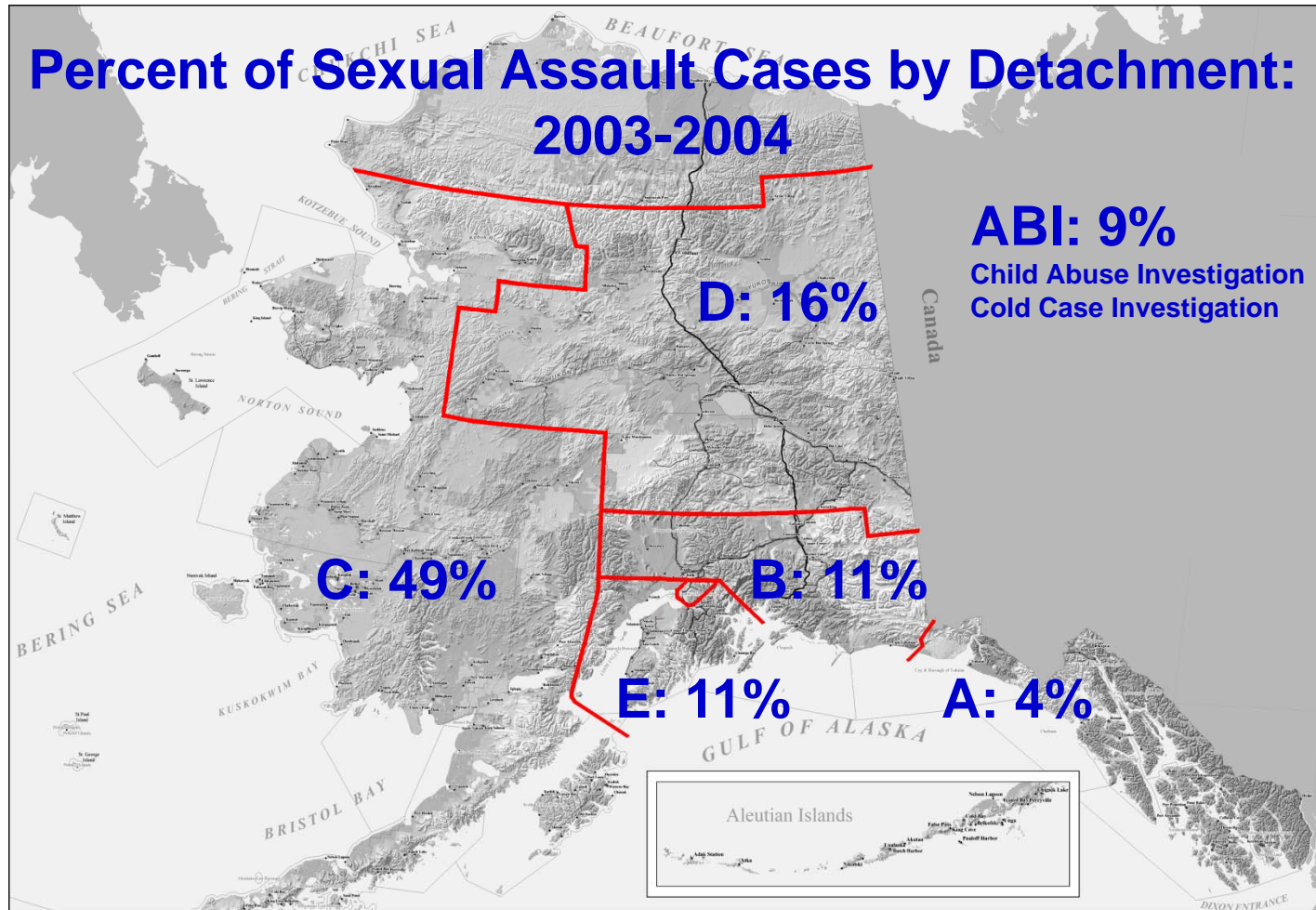
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AST Sexual Assault Cases



Source: AST Studies



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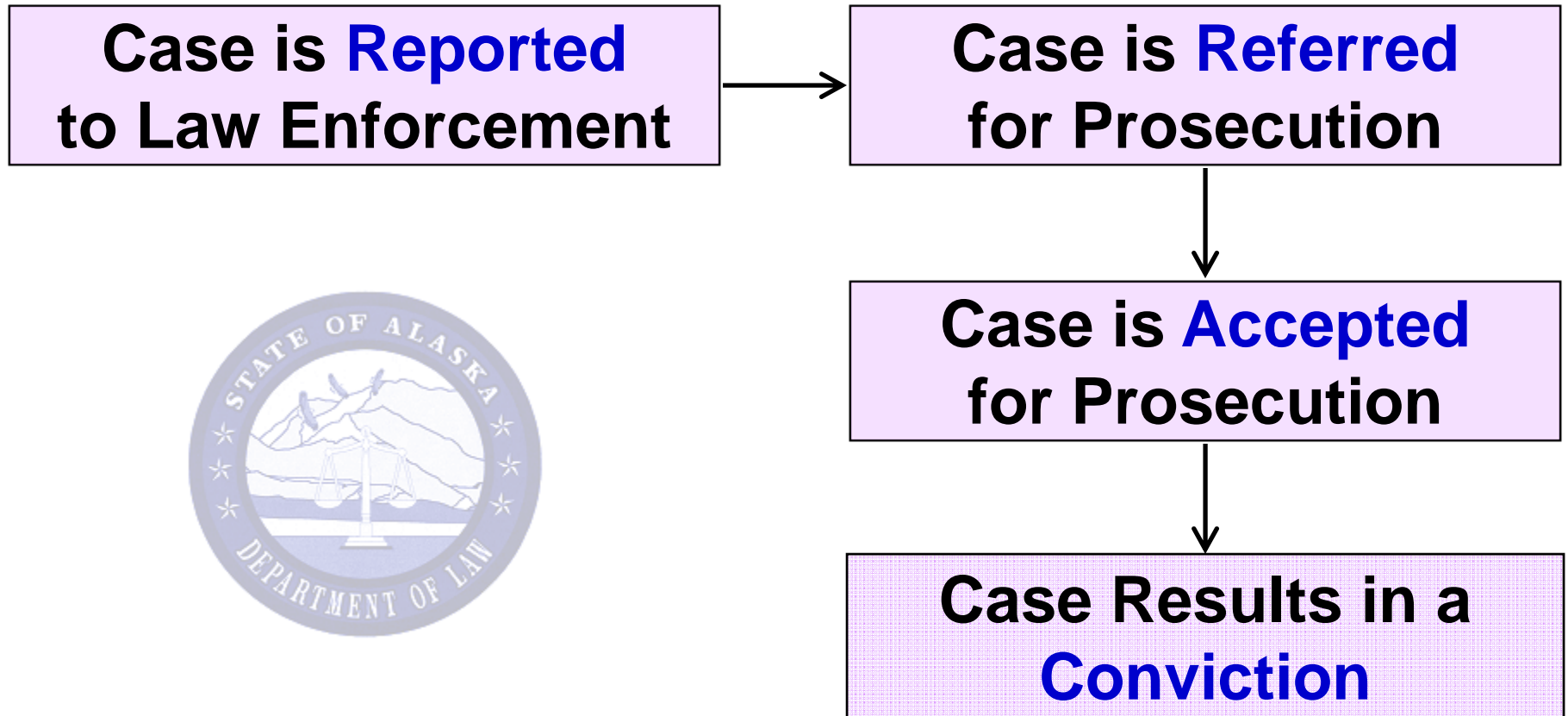
Anchorage PD Studies



- Sexual Assault Study I
 - 2000 & 2001 reports
- Sexual Assault Study II
 - 2002 & 2003 reports
- Sexual Assault Study III
 - 2004 & 2005 reports



Alaska Department of Law Studies



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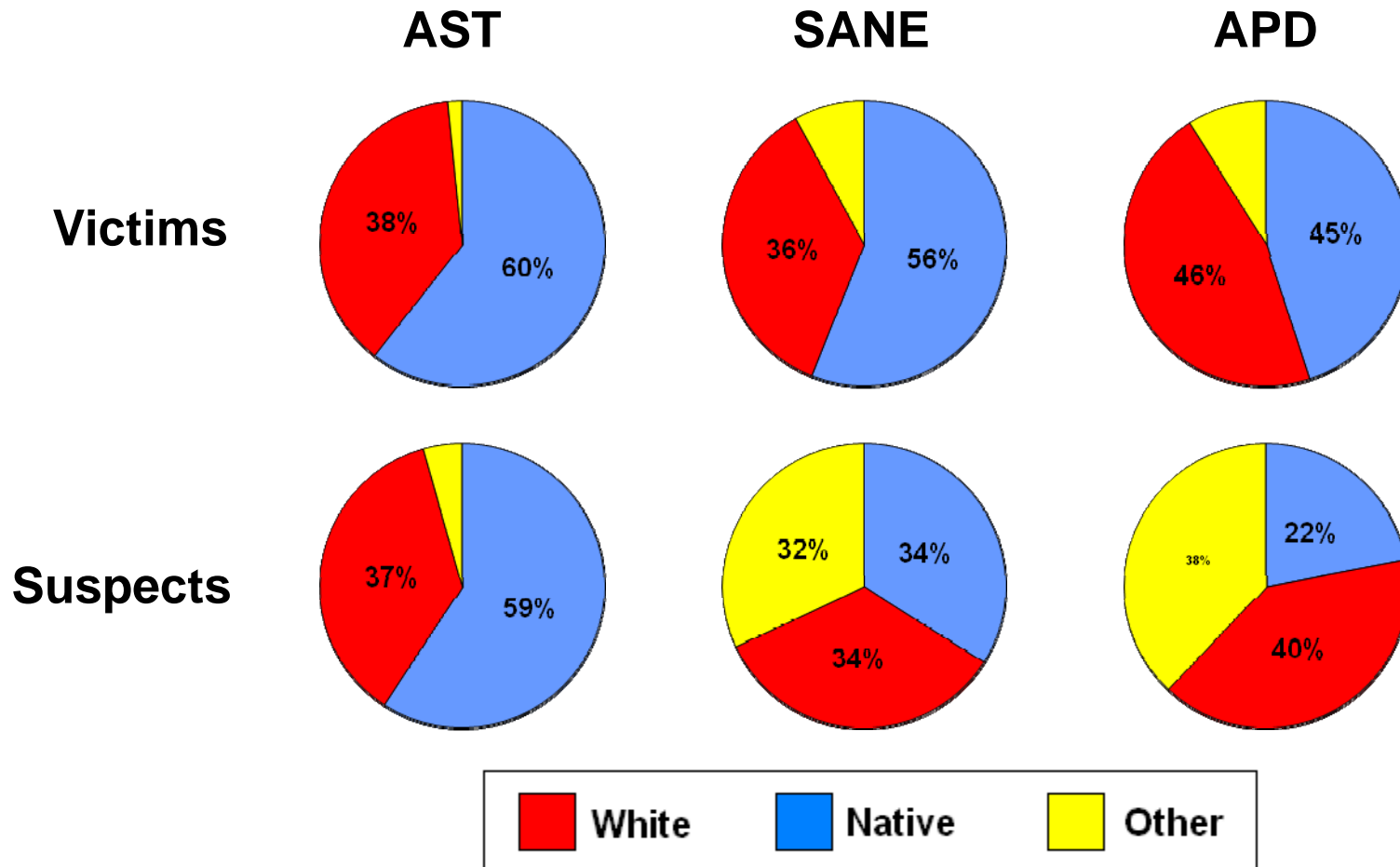


Key Results

- **Victim and Suspect Characteristics:**
 - Race
 - Age
 - Alcohol Use
 - Relationship
- **Legal Resolutions:**
 - Referral
 - Acceptance
 - Conviction



Race of Victims and Suspects



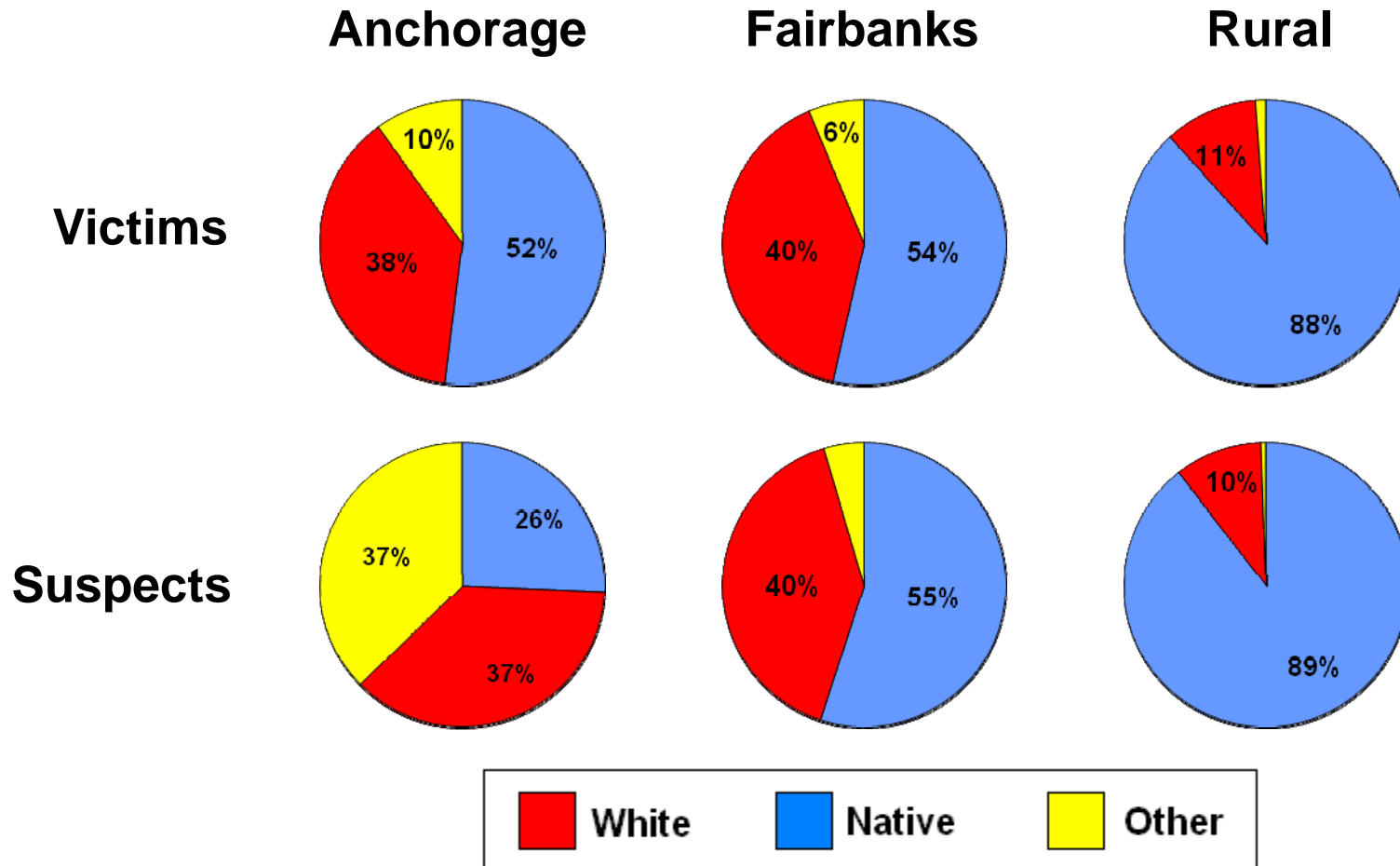
Source: AST, SANE, & APD Studies



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Race of SANE Victims and Suspects



Source: AK SANE Study

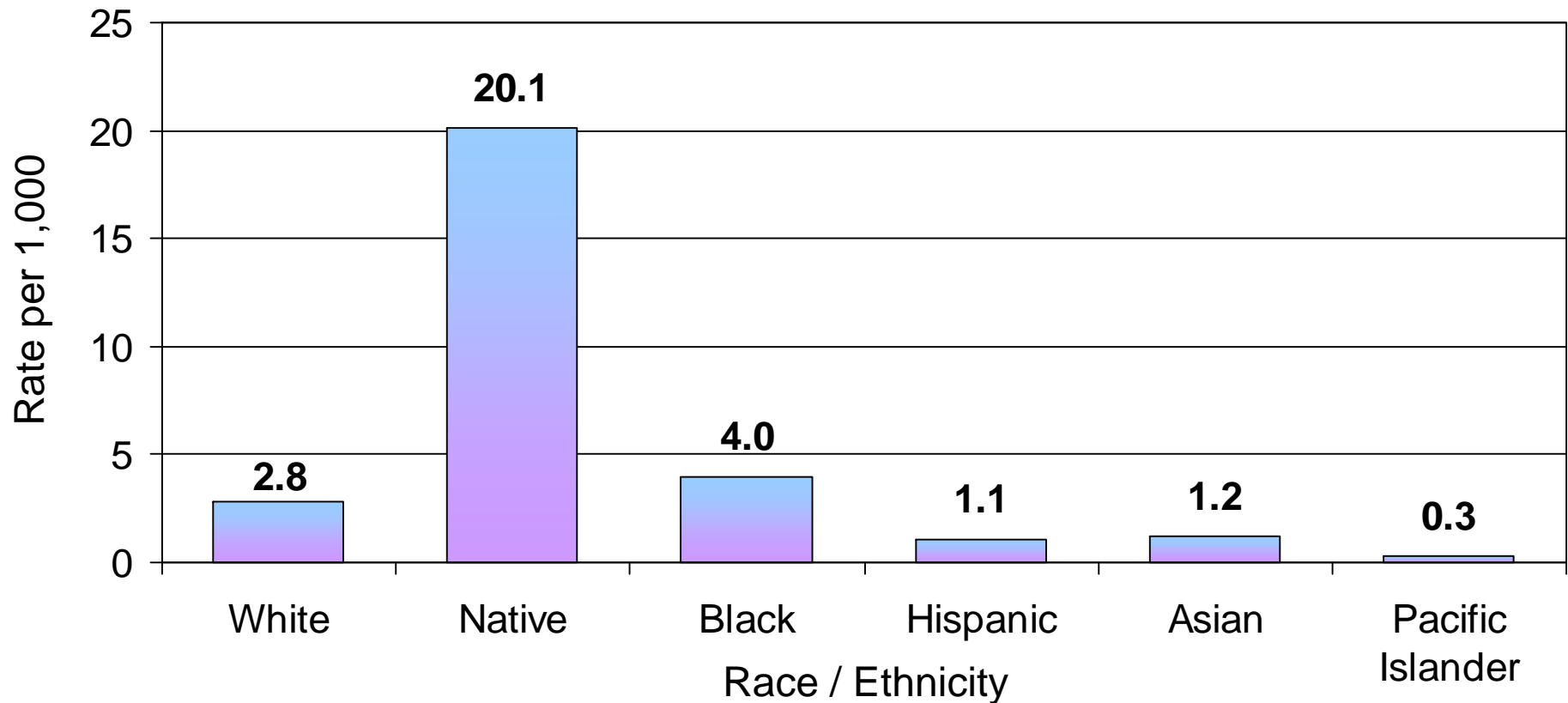


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Race of Sexual Assault Victims

Four-Year Rates of Sexual Assaults Reported to APD by Victim Race



Source: APD Studies (2000-2003)

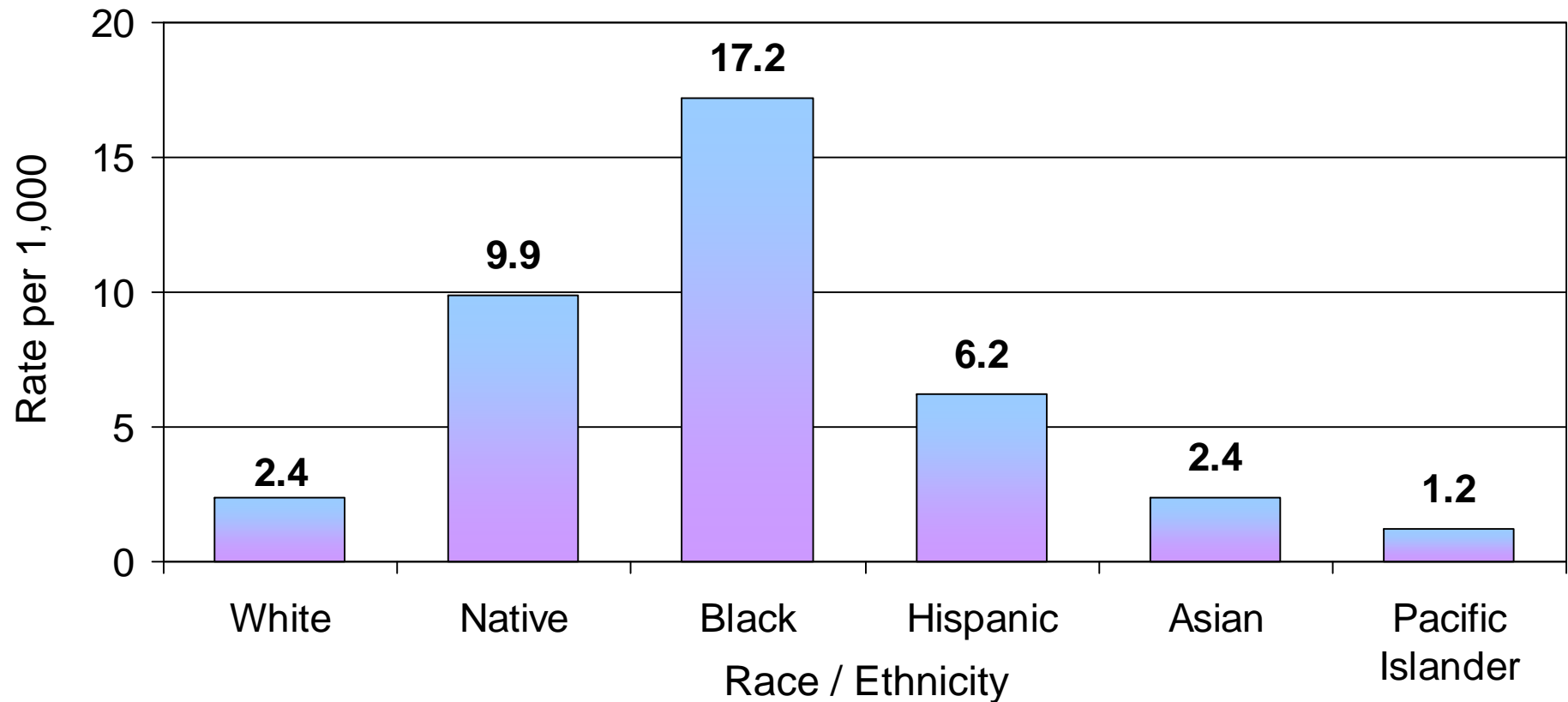


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Race of Sexual Assault Suspects

Four-Year Rates of Sexual Assaults Reported to APD by Suspect Race



Source: APD Studies (2000-2003)



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Percent of Intra-Racial Sexual Assaults

% of Suspects Who Assault
Someone of Their Same Race

	All Suspects	White Suspects	Native Suspects	Other Suspects
APD SA Study	52%	66%	79%	15%
SANE Study	53%	53%	88%	15%
AST SA Study	87%	86%	94%	7%

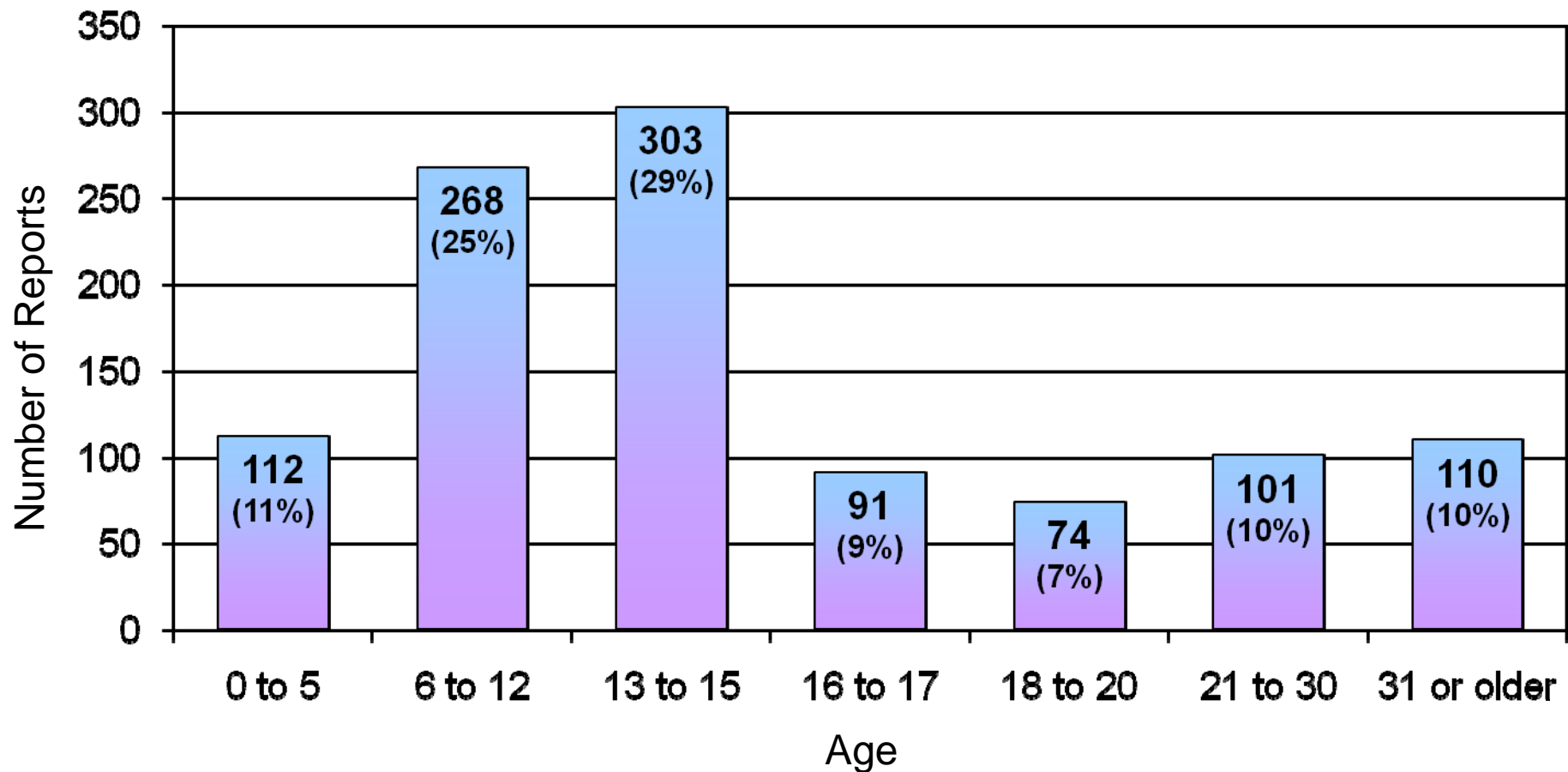


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Age of Sexual Assault Victims

Number of Sexual Assaults Reported to AST by Victim Age



Source: AST SA Study

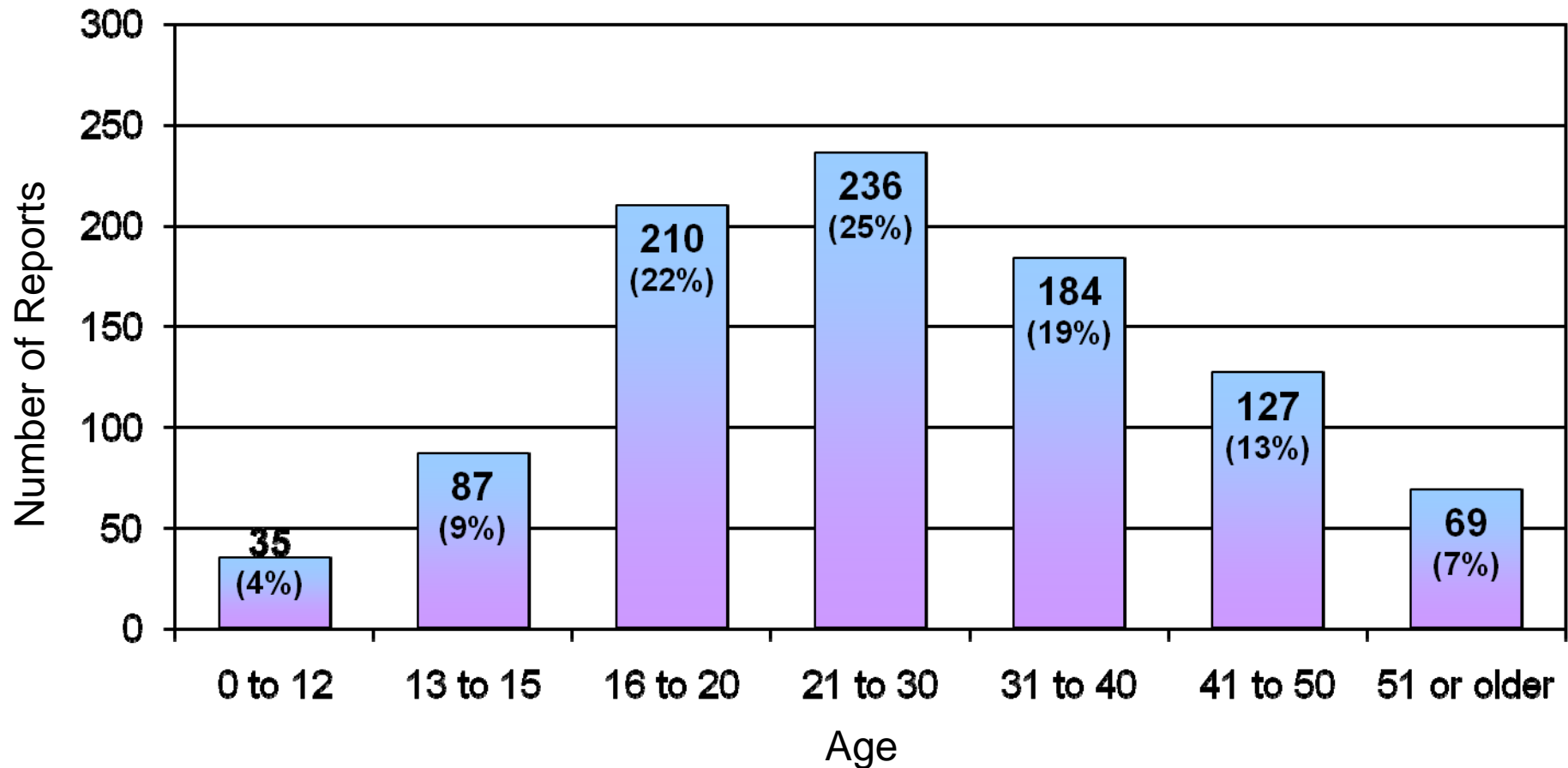


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Suspect / Victim Age Comparisons

Five Most Common Age Combinations in AST Sexual Assault Cases (48%):

1. Victims 0-12 years old, suspects 31+ years old
2. Victims 13-15 years old, suspects 16-20 years old
3. Victims 13-15 years old, suspects 21-30 years old
4. Victims 13-15 years old, suspects 31+ years old
5. Victims 31+ years old, suspects 31+ years old

Source: AST SA Study

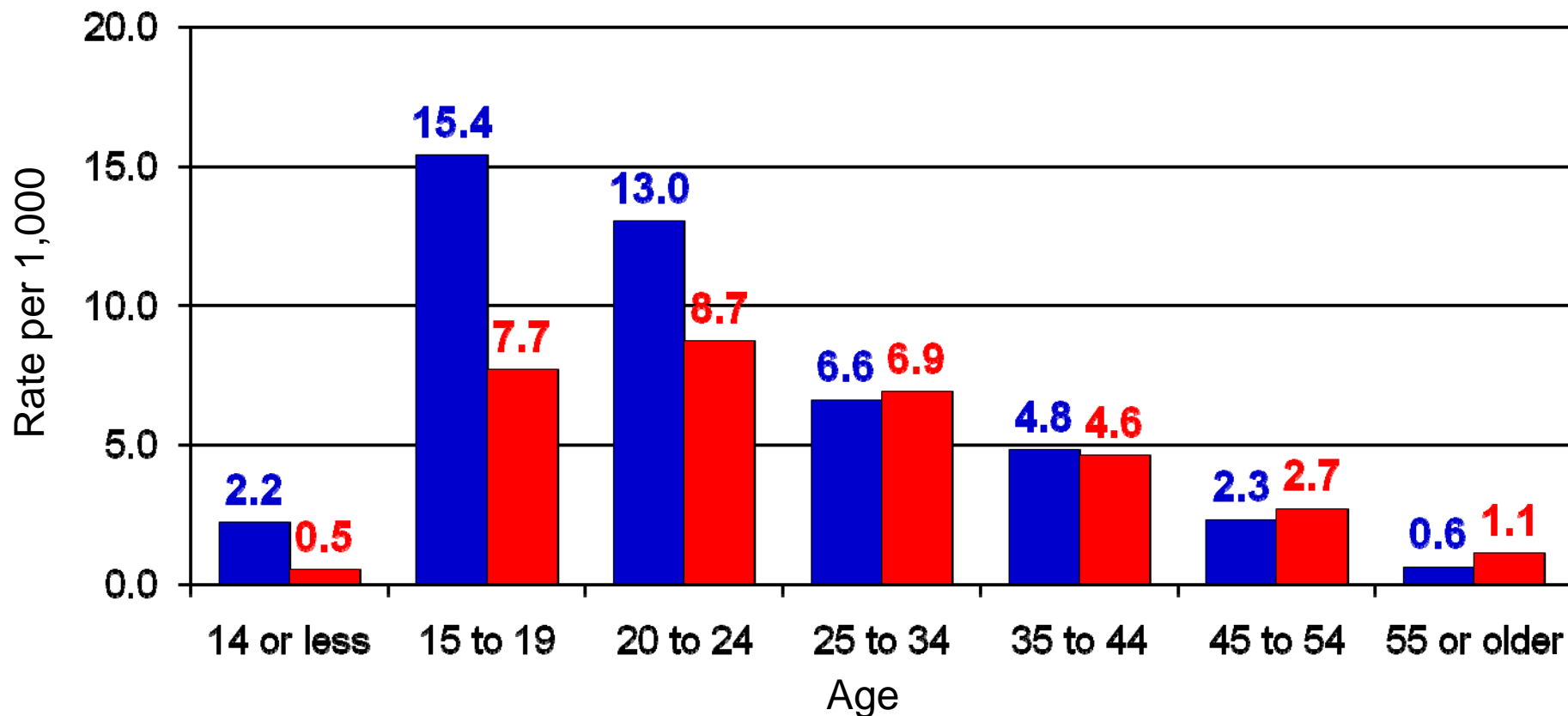


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Age of APD SA Suspects & Victims

Four-Year Rates of Sexual Assaults Reported to APD
for **Victims** and **Suspects**



Source: APD Studies (2000-2003)



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Alcohol Use by Victims

- **APD Studies:**
 - Every year, over 60% of victims use alcohol.
- **AK SANE Studies:**
 - Over 65% of patients used alcohol, except in Homer and Soldotna.
- **AST Study:**
 - 27% of sexual assault victims used alcohol.



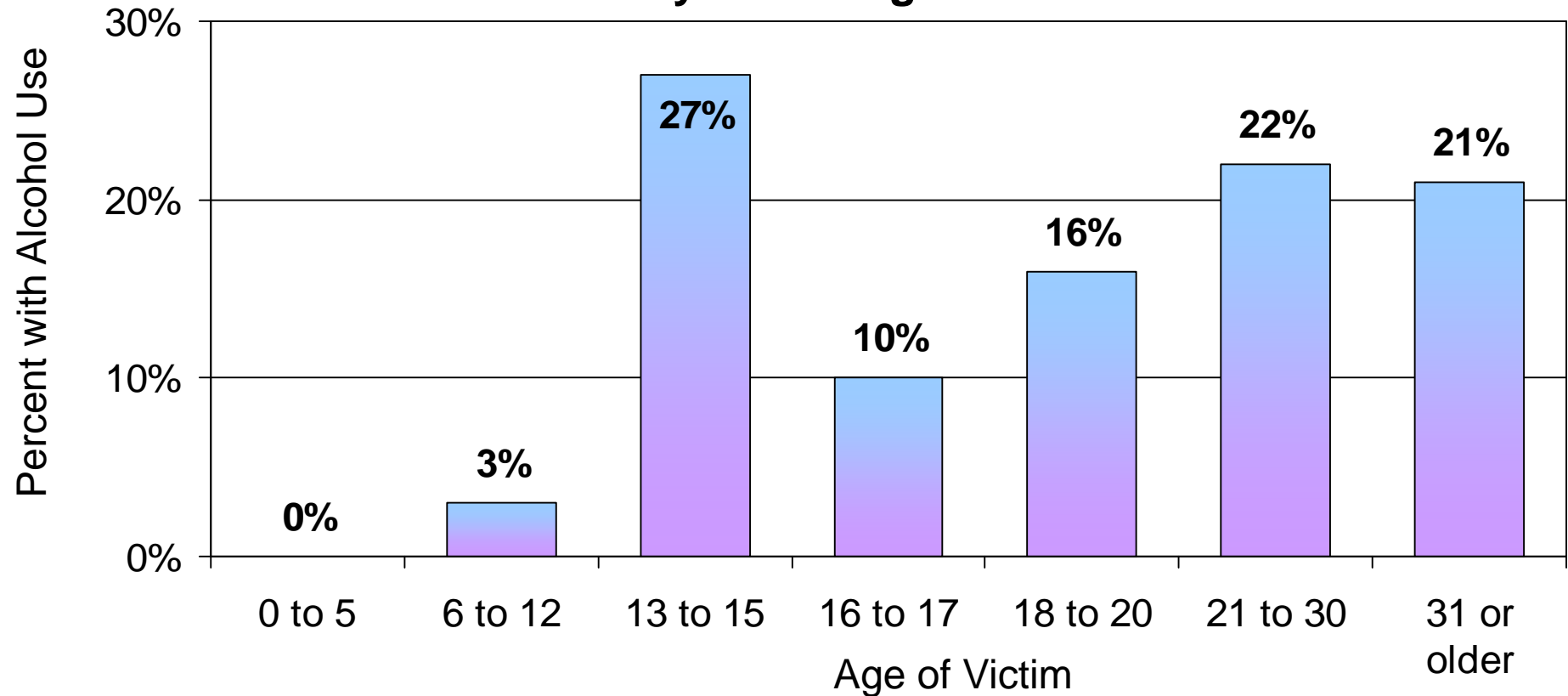
Alcohol Use by Suspects

- **APD Studies:**
 - Every year, over 70% of suspects use alcohol.
- **AK SANE Studies:**
 - In every site, over 75% of suspects used alcohol.
- **AST Study:**
 - 43% of sexual assault suspects used alcohol.



Alcohol Use by Age of Victim

Percent of Sexual Assaults Reported to AST with Victim Alcohol Use, by Victim Age



Source: AST SA Study

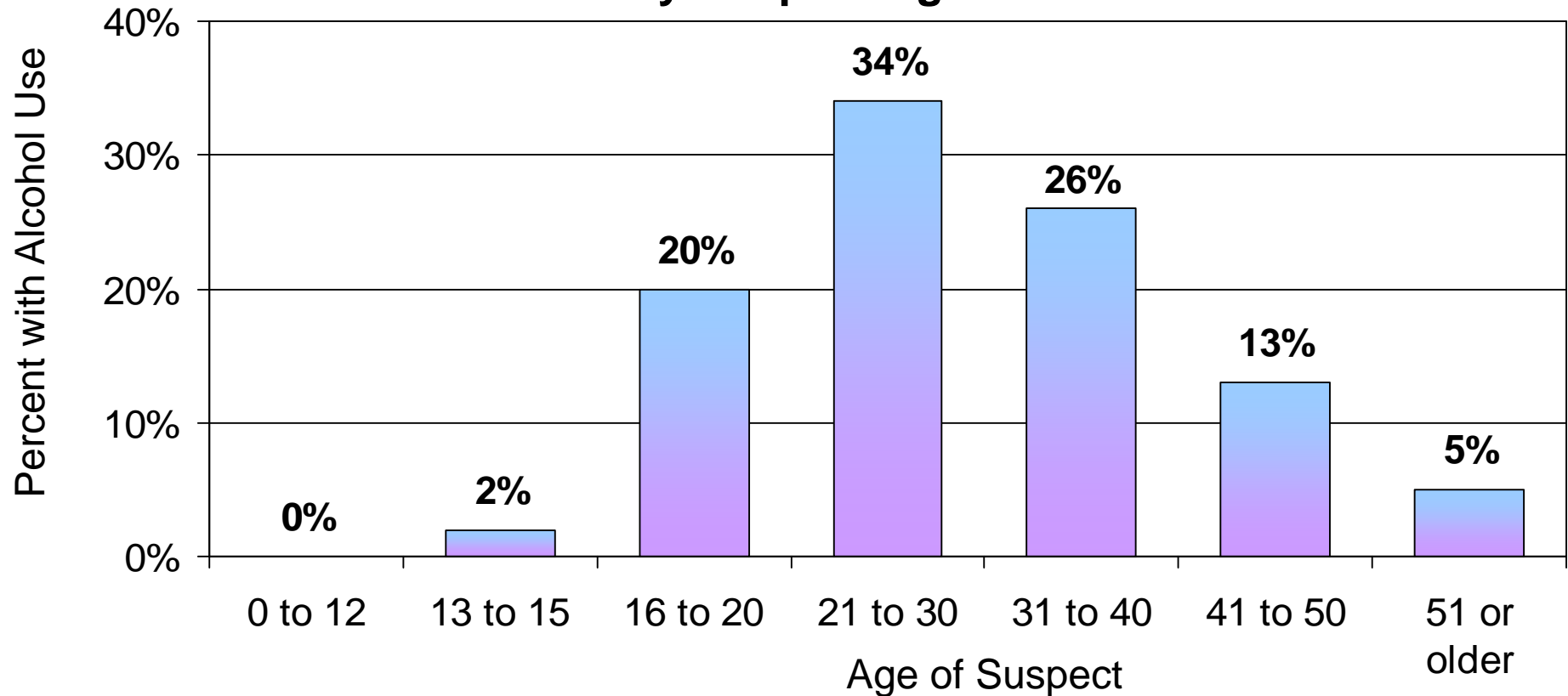


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Alcohol Use by Age of Suspect

Percent of Sexual Assaults Reported to AST with Suspect Alcohol Use, by Suspect Age



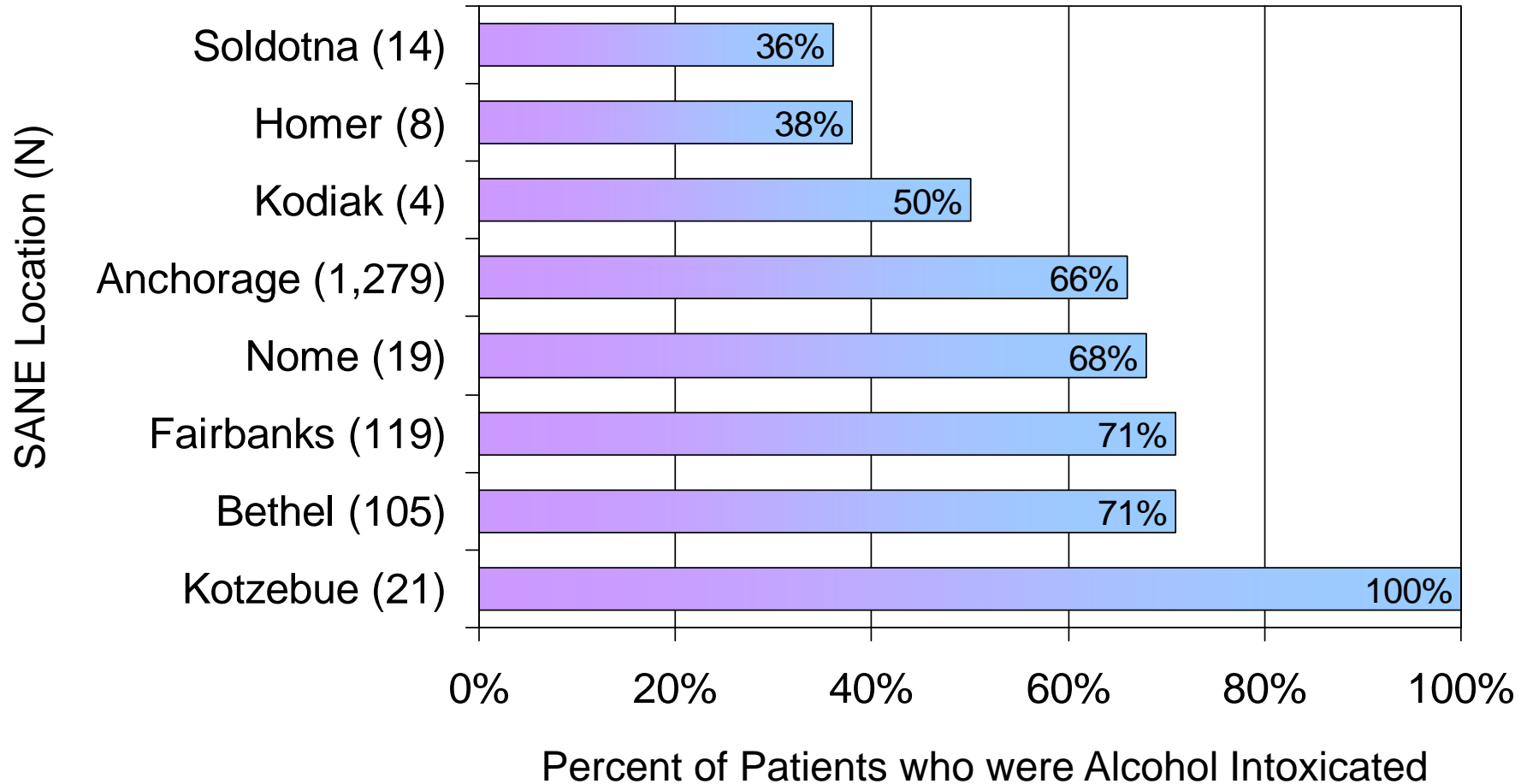
Source: AST SA Study



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Alcohol Use by SANE Location



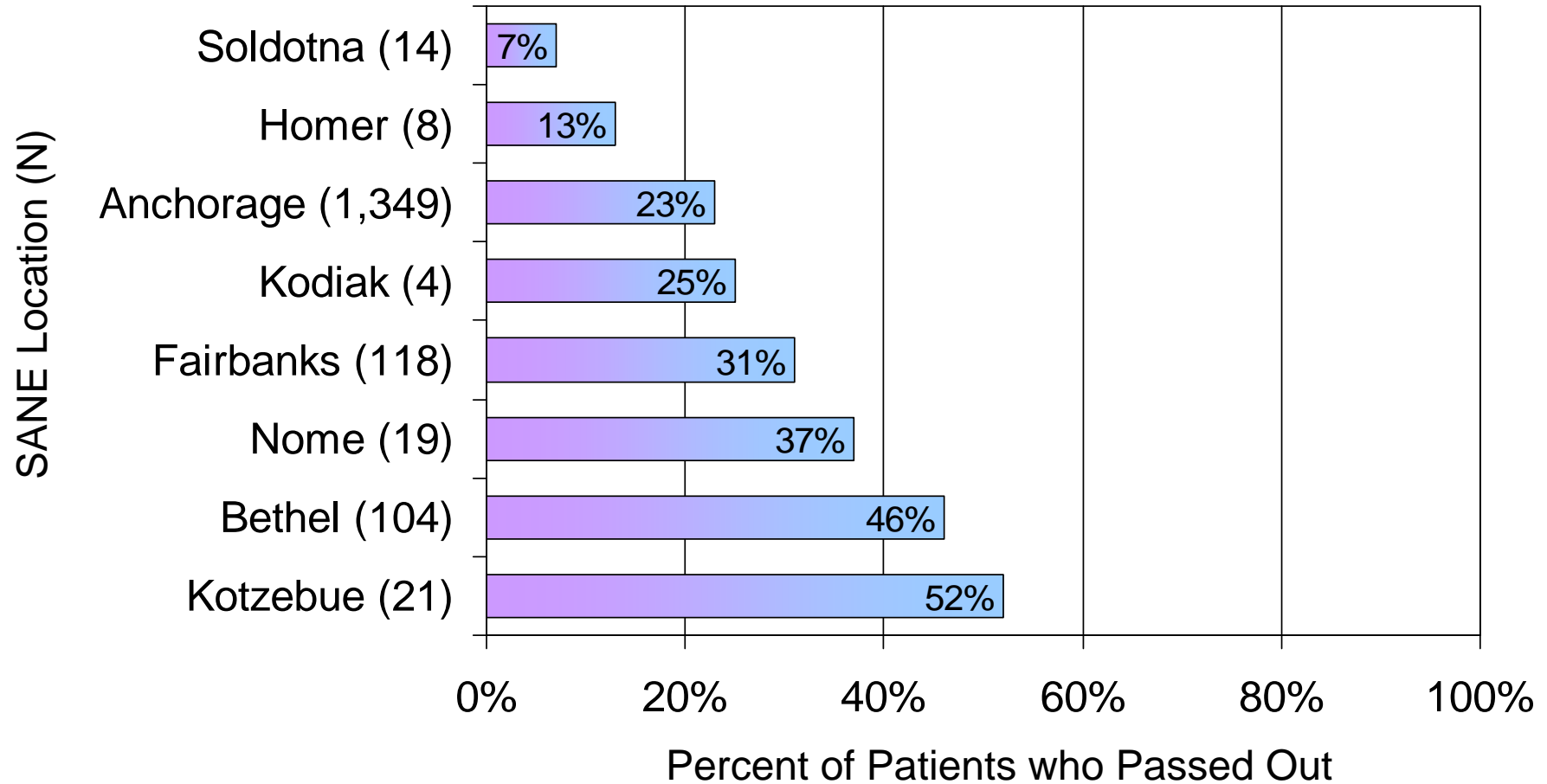
Source: AK SANE Study



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Incapacitation by SANE Location



Source: AK SANE Study



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Victim / Suspect Relationships

	% Assaulted by	
	Stranger	Non-Stranger
APD Study	38%	62%
SANE Study	16%	84%
AST Study	2%	98%

- In all studies above, most common relationship is friend or acquaintance.
- For sexual assaults reported in NIBRS (91-96): 14% assaulted by strangers.



Department of Law Studies

**Sexual Assault Case
is **Reported**
to Law Enforcement**



**18 to 46%
are **Referred****



**60 to 69%
are **Accepted****



**78 to 87%
Result in a **Conviction****



Source: AK SANE Study, APD Studies, AST SA Study



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Department of Law Studies

**Sexual Assault Case
is **Reported**
to Law Enforcement**

**18 to 46%
are **Referred****

**12 to 28%
are **Accepted****

**11 to 22%
Result in a Conviction**



Source: AK SANE Study, APD Studies, AST SA Study



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Effective Strategies

- **Enhancing local paraprofessional police presence (VPSO, VPO, TPO):**



3/13/09 graduation; photo courtesy Alaska State Troopers

- Reduces rates of serious injury caused by assault by 40%
- Increases likelihood of prosecution in sexual assault cases by 3.5 times



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Effective Strategies

- **Strengthening local alcohol prohibitions**



Photo courtesy Alaska State Troopers, ABADE 2007

- Rates of serious injury from assault are 36% lower in dry villages
- Prosecution of sexual assault cases hindered by alcohol use
- Lifetime victimization increases with alcohol use



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Effective Strategies

- **Enhancing investigation capacity**



Photo courtesy Jim Wolfe, Journal of Forensic Identification, 2008, 58(4), p. 498. Sulfur cement cast.

- Locating and interviewing witnesses
- Gaining victim cooperation
- Having time to investigate and close cases



Effective Strategies

- **Promoting access to sexual assault nurse examiners**



Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
Photo courtesy Angie Ellis & Tara Henry

- Medical-forensic exams more than double the likelihood of accepting cases for prosecution
- Documentation of physical injury is particularly important
- Offers the best standard of care



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Legal Resolutions by Victim Race

	All Sexual Violence		Rape / Sexual Assault		Sexual Abuse of a Minor	
	Native	Non-Native	Native	Non-Native	Native	Non-Native
Founded	82%	82%	87%	79%	78%	84%
Referred	68%	57%	70%	56%	65%	57%
Accepted	64%	54%	69%	45%	59%	60%
Convicted	81%	79%	76%	72%	86%	82%

Source: AST SA Study; significant differences in red



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Legal Resolutions by Bush Stratum

	All Sexual Violence		Rape / Sexual Assault		Sexual Abuse of a Minor	
	Bush	Non-Bush	Bush	Non-Bush	Bush	Non-Bush
Founded	76%	76%	82%	75%	71%	77%
Referred	66%	56%	70%	56%	62%	56%
Accepted	69%	50%	74%	44%	64%	55%
Convicted	81%	78%	76%	74%	89%	80%

Source: AST SA Study; significant differences in red



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Legal Resolutions by Isolation

	All Sexual Violence		Rape / Sexual Assault		Sexual Abuse of a Minor	
	Isolated	Not Isolated	Isolated	Not Isolated	Isolated	Not Isolated
Founded	76%	76%	82%	75%	71%	77%
Referred	67%	55%	71%	54%	62%	56%
Accepted	68%	51%	71%	47%	65%	54%
Convicted	80%	81%	75%	78%	86%	83%

Source: AST SA Study; significant differences in red



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Welcome to Alaska!



Photo Credit: Doug Lindstrand, Courtesy of Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau

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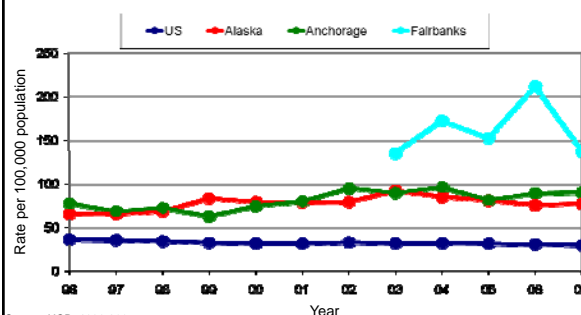
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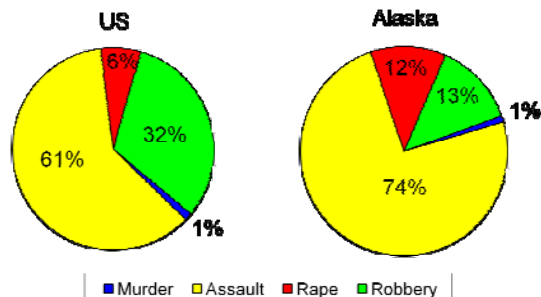
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Composition of Violent Crime Rate



Source: UCR, 2007



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Rate Rankings		
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Alaska SANE Study



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Alaska State Trooper Studies



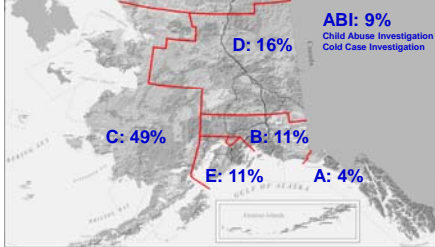
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AST Sexual Assault Cases

Percent of Sexual Assault Cases by Detachment:
2003-2004



Source: AST Studies

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Anchorage PD Studies



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Alaska Department of Law Studies

Case is **Reported**
to Law Enforcement

Case is **Referred**
for Prosecution

Case is **Accepted**
for Prosecution

Case Results in a
Conviction



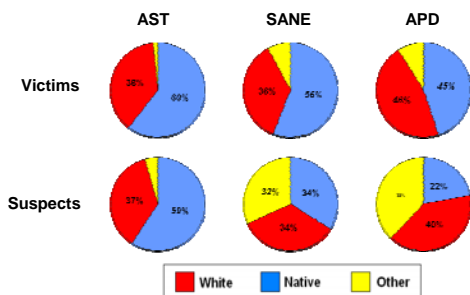
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Key Results

- **Victim and Suspect Characteristics:**
 - Race
 - Age
 - Alcohol Use
 - Relationship
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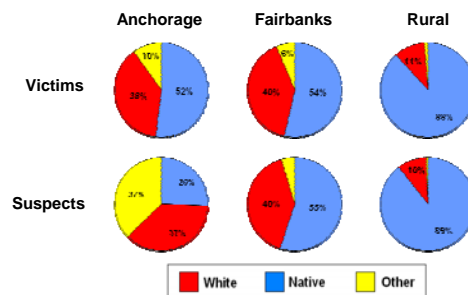
Race of Victims and Suspects



Source: AST, SANE, & APD Studies

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Race of SANE Victims and Suspects

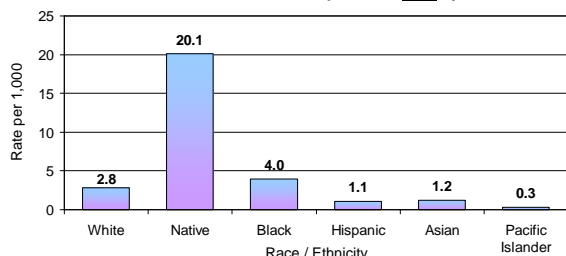


Source: AK SANE Study

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Race of Sexual Assault Victims

Four-Year Rates of Sexual Assaults Reported to APD by Victim Race

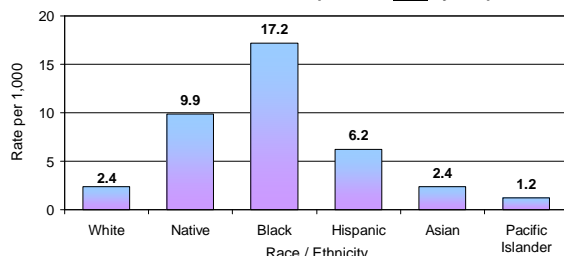


Source: APD Studies (2000-2003)

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Race of Sexual Assault Suspects

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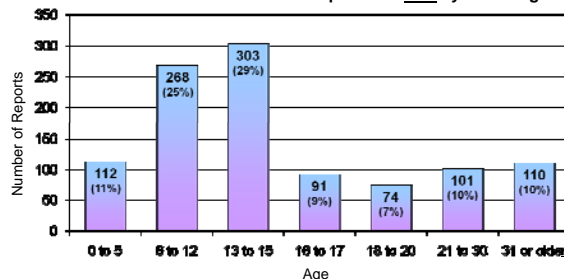


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Age of Sexual Assault Victims

Number of Sexual Assaults Reported to AST by Victim Age

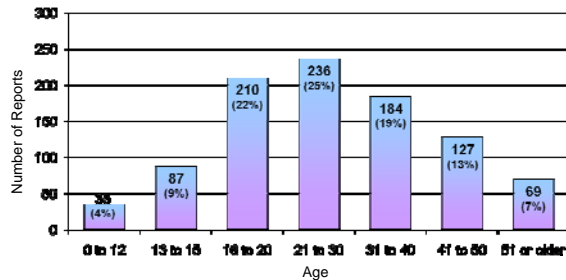


Source: AST SA Study

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Age of Sexual Assault Suspects

Number of Sexual Assaults Reported to AST by Suspect Age



Source: AST SA Study

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Suspect / Victim Age Comparisons

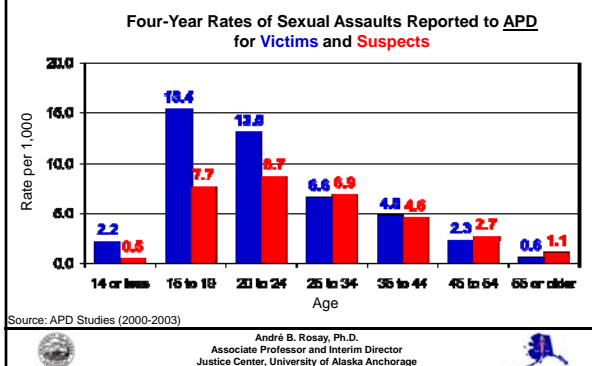
Five Most Common Age Combinations in AST Sexual Assault Cases (48%):

1. Victims 0-12 years old, suspects 31+ years old
2. Victims 13-15 years old, suspects 16-20 years old
3. Victims 13-15 years old, suspects 21-30 years old
4. Victims 13-15 years old, suspects 31+ years old
5. Victims 31+ years old, suspects 31+ years old

Source: AST SA Study

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Age of APD SA Suspects & Victims



Alcohol Use by Victims

- **APD Studies:**
 - Every year, over 60% of victims use alcohol.
- **AK SANE Studies:**
 - Over 65% of patients used alcohol, except in Homer and Soldotna.
- **AST Study:**
 - 27% of sexual assault victims used alcohol.

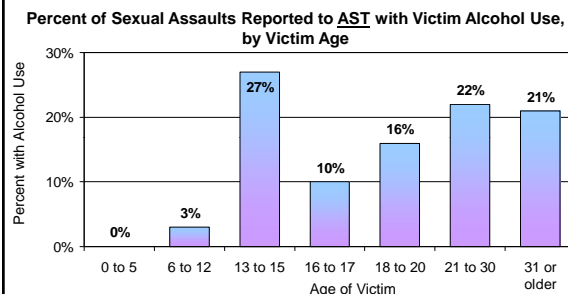
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Alcohol Use by Suspects

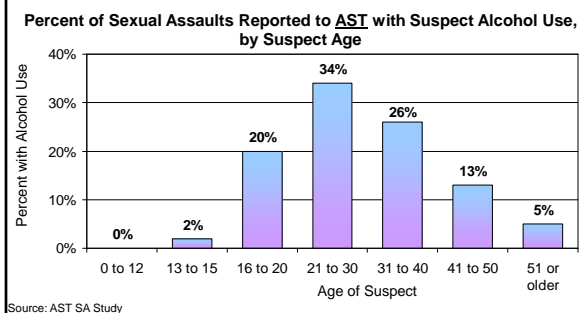
- **APD Studies:**
 - Every year, over 70% of suspects use alcohol.
- **AK SANE Studies:**
 - In every site, over 75% of suspects used alcohol.
- **AST Study:**
 - 43% of sexual assault suspects used alcohol.

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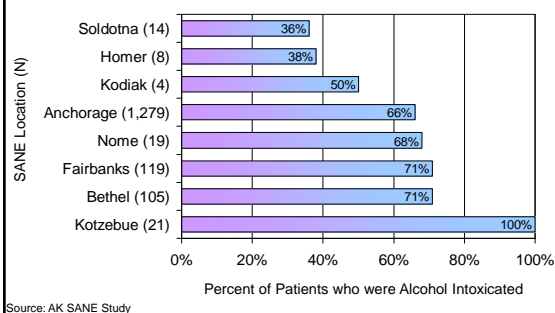
Alcohol Use by Age of Victim



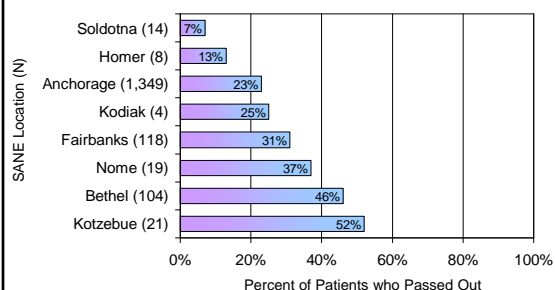
Alcohol Use by Age of Suspect



Alcohol Use by SANE Location



Incapacitation by SANE Location



Source: AK SANE Study

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Victim / Suspect Relationships

	% Assaulted by	
	Stranger	Non-Stranger
APD Study	38%	62%
SANE Study	16%	84%
AST Study	2%	98%

- In all studies above, most common relationship is friend or acquaintance.
- For sexual assaults reported in NIBRS (91-96): 14% assaulted by strangers.

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Department of Law Studies

Sexual Assault Case
is **Reported**
to Law Enforcement

18 to 46%
are **Referred**

60 to 69%
are **Accepted**

78 to 87%
Result in a **Conviction**

Source: AK SANE Study, APD Studies, AST SA Study

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Department of Law Studies

Sexual Assault Case
is **Reported**
to Law Enforcement

18 to 46%
are **Referred**

12 to 28%
are **Accepted**

11 to 22%
Result in a **Conviction**

Source: AK SANE Study, APD Studies, AST SA Study

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Effective Strategies

- **Enhancing local paraprofessional police presence (VPSO, VPO, TPO):**



3/13/09 graduation; photo courtesy Alaska State Troopers

- Reduces rates of serious injury caused by assault by 40%
- Increases likelihood of prosecution in sexual assault cases by 3.5 times



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Effective Strategies

- **Strengthening local alcohol prohibitions**



Photo courtesy Alaska State Troopers, ABADE 2007

- Rates of serious injury from assault are 36% lower in dry villages
- Prosecution of sexual assault cases hindered by alcohol use
- Lifetime victimization increases with alcohol use



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Effective Strategies

• Enhancing investigation capacity



Photo courtesy Jim Wolfe, Journal of Forensic Identification, 2008, 58(4), p. 498. Sulfur cement cast.

- Locating and interviewing witnesses
- Gaining victim cooperation
- Having time to investigate and close cases



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Effective Strategies

• Promoting access to sexual assault nurse examiners



Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
Photo courtesy Angie Ellis & Tara Henry

- Medical-forensic exams more than double the likelihood of accepting cases for prosecution
- Documentation of physical injury is particularly important
- Offers the best standard of care



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Legal Resolutions by Victim Race

	All Sexual Violence		Rape / Sexual Assault		Sexual Abuse of a Minor	
	Native	Non-Native	Native	Non-Native	Native	Non-Native
Founded	82%	82%	87%	79%	78%	84%
Referred	68%	57%	70%	56%	65%	57%
Accepted	64%	54%	69%	45%	59%	60%
Convicted	81%	79%	76%	72%	86%	82%

Source: AST SA Study; significant differences in red



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Legal Resolutions by Bush Stratum

	All Sexual Violence		Rape / Sexual Assault		Sexual Abuse of a Minor	
	Bush	Non-Bush	Bush	Non-Bush	Bush	Non-Bush
Founded	76%	76%	82%	75%	71%	77%
Referred	66%	56%	70%	56%	62%	56%
Accepted	69%	50%	74%	44%	64%	55%
Convicted	81%	78%	76%	74%	89%	80%

Source: AST SA Study; significant differences in red



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Legal Resolutions by Isolation

	All Sexual Violence		Rape / Sexual Assault		Sexual Abuse of a Minor	
	Isolated	Not Isolated	Isolated	Not Isolated	Isolated	Not Isolated
Founded	76%	76%	82%	75%	71%	77%
Referred	67%	55%	71%	54%	62%	56%
Accepted	68%	51%	71%	47%	65%	54%
Convicted	80%	81%	75%	78%	86%	83%

Source: AST SA Study; significant differences in red



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Welcome to Alaska!



Photo Credit: Doug Lindstrand, Courtesy of Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau

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